

538 Since the establishment of the Central
177 People's Government, delegations of Russian
877 authors have visited Peking and other important cities of China. Russian is now taught in Chinese schools as the foreign language. Under the Communist regime, the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, which has branches throughout China, has contributed much in the promotion of popular appreciation of Russian culture.

B. Academic Writings

- 874 Academic writing under direction of the Chinese Communists seems to be concentrated upon the history of peasant rebellion during the last one hundred years, anthropological studies of the ethnic minorities in China, commentaries, political and philosophical, on texts by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse-tung, and Liu Shao-ch'i, and archeology and pre-historic Chinese society.

In the field of modern Chinese history, the Chinese Historical Society 16 is most comprehensive in its program of research. It has sponsored the compilation of a series of documents on modern Chinese history. To date, the published volumes of the series include

16. The society is now called the Institute of Chinese History, a division of the Academy of Sciences at Peking.

84 Nien Chün, concerning the peasant rebellion in Kiangsu, Anhwei, Honan, and Shantung in the latter half of the nineteenth century; T'ai-p'ing T'ien-kuo, the Taiping Rebellion in the middle of the nineteenth century; the Hui Revolt, the revolt of the Hui people in the Northwest and in the Province of Yunnan in the Southwest in the nineteenth century; the Opium War (1839-1842); and The Hundred-Day Reform (1898). This series will include twelve collection of source materials, including works on the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and the May Fourth Movement (1919).

The published volumes contain a wealth of source materials. In addition to assembling records kept by previous governments, the works bring together the memoirs of individuals concerned and documents which have lain undisturbed in county archives. However, one cannot find in these volumes any interpretations of or commentaries on the material gathered. In the prefaces to these published volumes it is stated that:

"Counterrevolutionary forces always try their best to distort fact. Because they often suppress and destroy revolutionary literature, the latter is seldom preserved for posterity. Now research in past revolutionary events can only proceed from the records kept by the counterrevolutionaries. Therefore those who are going to use the

- 84 the material here assembled must be reminded that they should approach the matter with a viewpoint opposite to that advocated by the authors of the material."

So far no major historical treatises based on this material have been written. The first volume of Part I of Fan Wen-lan's Modern History of China (Harbin, Tung-pei shu-tien, 1948), which deals with the period 1840-1905, is the text on modern Chinese history; Fan's book was published before the Communists achieved national power. Other historians such as Ku Hsieh-kang, who at the beginning of the Communist rule in China expressed his gratitude to the Chinese Communist regime for enabling him to continue his research, have so far produced nothing.¹⁷ Historians in China now prefer to annotate published works rather than write their own view of history, probably for fear that the whims of some Communist critics may someday put them in peril. As a result of the lack of new historical texts, history books written before 1949 are now being reprinted.

- 85 Of the academic people who have transferred their allegiance to the Communist regime, the anthropologists seem to be faring better than

17. The re-writing of history textbooks with a dialectic materialist viewpoint for primary and secondary school students is not considered in this chapter. See the chapter on Education in this handbook.